

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4087

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAR ES SALAAM 0717

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, TZ, US, PFOR
SUBJECT: INVITATION TO PRESIDENT NYERERE TO MAKE STATE VISIT TO
US IN 1977

REF: DAR ES SALAAM 0672

1. EMBASSY PROPOSES THAT DEPT RECOMMEND TO WHITE HOUSE THAT
PRESIDENT NYERERE BE INVITED TO MAKE STATE VISIT TO US
EARLY IN NEW ADMINISTRATION, PERHAPS AS ONE OF FIRST AFRICAN
LEADERS TO RECEIVE SUCH INVITATION.

2. NYERERE'S
ROLE IN AFRICA: THE ADMINISTRATION HAS ANNOUNCED
ITS INTENTION TO DEVOTE GREATER ATTENTION TO SOUTHERN AFRICA AT A
TIME WHEN ITS PROBLEMS ARE INCREASINGLY ACUTE. IN THIS SITUATION,
NYERERE PLAYS A CRITICAL ROLE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE FIVE FRONT-LINE
STATES.

3. OPPORTUNE TIME: NYERERE IS AT THE MOMENT VERY INTERESTED
IN THE US, BECAUSE OF THE PROMISE HE SEES IN THE NEW ADMINIS-
TRATION AND THE EXCELLENT IMPRESSION MADE UPON HIM BY
AMBASSADOR ANDREW YOUNG (REFTEL). HE IS AS RECEPTIVE AS HE
IS EVER LIKELY TO BE TO EXAMINING PRAGMATICALLY THE VIEWS OF
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THE USG AND ITS ROLE IN AFRICA.

4. DISADVANTAGES: UNLIKE MANY OTHER AFRICAN LEADERS, NYERERE
POSES FEW LIABILITES AS A VISITOR. ALTHOUGH TANZANIAN IS A ONE-
PARTY STATE, NYERERE IS A CIVILIAN WHO INITIALLY ASSUMED POWER
BY LEGITIMATE MEANS AND WHOSE POLITICAL OPPOSITION ATTRACTS NO
SUPPORT ABROAD. NYERERE'S REGIME IS NOT CHARACTERIZED BY

TORTURE OR WIDESPREAD GOVERNMENT CORRUPTION SCANDALS. INDEED, TO A LARGE PROPORTION OF AMERICANS INTERESTED IN AFRICA, TANZANIA'S SOCIALIST EXPERIMENT IS A MATTER OF HIGH INTEREST, THOUGH ITS UNPOLEMICS OCCASIONALLY OFFEND. NYERERE IS AN ATTRACTIVE PERSON, WITH A CAPACITY FOR DELIGHTING SYMPATHETIC AUDIENCES. WHILE AMERICAN CONSERVATIVES OBJECT TO HIS RADICALISM, THE US LEFT FINDS HIS EGALITARIAN THEORIZING INTRIGUING AND THE MEDIA WOULD REMAIN BEMUSED THROUGHOUT A VISIT.

5. ADVANTAGES TO US: NYERERE PLAYS A KEY ROLE IN THE UNFOLDING SOUTHERN AFRICAN SITUATION. IT IS USEFUL FOR THE US TO MAXIMIZE ITS WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM. THIS CAN BEST BE DONE BY EXPOSING HIM PERSONALLY TO THE PRESIDENT AND TO THE SECRETARY STATE. WE BELIEVE THAT SUCH MEETINGS WOULD IMPRESS NYERERE, EVER SUSPICIOUS OF AMERICAN CAPITALISM, OF AMERICA'S MORAL PURPOSE IN SEEKING MAJORITY RULE AND HUMAN JUSTICE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. GIVEN NYERERE'S IDEOLOGICALLY CIRCUMSCRIBED APPRAISAL OF AMERICAN MOTIVES, SUCH AN IMPRESSION COULD BE IMPORTANT IN INFLUENCING HIM TOWARD FURTHER COOPERATION IN THE SEARCH FOR PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS TO SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROBLEMS.

6. WOULD NYERERE COME?; NYERERE LAST MADE AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO US IN 1963, DURING KENNEDY PRESIDENCY. WE BELIEVE HE WOULD ACCEPT AN INVITATION FROM THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WITH ALACRITY. THIS WOULD AFFORD HIM THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH TOP US LEADERS, TO PRESENT HIS IDEAS ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN AND WORLD ISSUES TO THE AMERICAN PUBLIC, AND TO INCREASE HIS PRESTIGE IN AFRICA AS A NON-ALIGNED LEADER ACCEPTABLE IN ALL MAJOR CAPITALS OF EAST
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